Portraying of women in Hindi music video albums

†1577. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in a number of private Hindi music video albums, women are being portrayed in a vulgar and semi-nude manner;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued any order to stop telecast of such albums on private and Doordarshan channels;

(c) the manner in which Government propose to control it; and

(d) whether any action is being taken against the producers of these albums?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Programmes of all Satellite Channels, transmitted or re-transmitted through Cable Network, are required to adhere to the provisions of Programme Code prescribed under Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. Programme Code, *inter-alia*, prohibits carriage of programmes, which offend good taste or decency, contain anything obscene and which are derogatory to women, and which are not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.

Action for violation of provisions of the Code can be taken by any authorized officer, *i.e.* SDM, DM, Commissioner of Police or any other officer notified in the Official Gazette by Central Government or State Government. The Central Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Act to look into the violations of the Code. Cognizance of any violation of Code is taken suo-moto or on receipt of specific complaints by the Committee.

Show cause notices were issued to private TV channels for telecasting Hindi songs in violation of the Code. Show cause notices have also been issued to TV channels for telecasting songs from a Hindi Film certified 'A' by Central Board of Film Certification, in violation of the Code.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.